PROJECT NUMBER: 1333
PROJECT TITLE: Semiworks Process Control
PROJECT LEADER: D. A. Phan
PERIOD COVERED: October, 1987

A. **Objective**: Evaluate and revise the process control and data acquisition system to improve processing performance and production quality.

B. **Results**:

Semiworks Primary Computer Upgrade (Oliver/Sims) - Work is underway to reconfigure the backup HP computer to provide direct access to the Fisher Provox database and to eliminate the data communication link between the HP host and backup computers. This work is being conducted to improve the performance and reliability of both computer systems.

Two process control and data acquisition software packages, the Onspec from Heuristics Inc. and the Camm from Centec Corp. have been evaluated for use in the Semiworks primary. The Camm software package was selected for the application because it provided more features. This software package, run on an IBM-AT with a special interface connected to the Fisher Controls Provox highway, will provide greater flexibility in the handling of historical process data.

Integration Feeder Throughput (Phan/Sims) - Work is underway to see if improvements can be made to the feeder and weighbelt systems in the total blend area to satisfy the desired tobacco flow rate requirement of 750 lb/hr wet basis. Modifications have been made to increase the speed of all the integration feeders. Initial results indicate that all feeders can now deliver the desired flow rate of 750 lb/hr.

Adt Dryer Control Improvements (Sims) - The existing ADT dryer process control system is being reviewed to see if any improvements can be made to reduce overdrying at startup and shutdown when processing small (150 lb) samples.

C. **Plans**: Continue the work on the HP system reconfiguration and the Adt dryer process control improvement project. Complete all testing of modified integration feeders and weighbelts. Continue conducting routine QA functions.

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